

Application No. 10/579,576  
Amdt. dated 8 February 2010  
Reply to Office Action of 13 November 2009

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Page 7, line 25, please delete the paragraph and insert the following:

The method and the device are characterized by low investment and operating costs and prevent risks for man and environment. The method has a minimum current consumption, since the underpressure in the system is maintained, once it has been generated by the vacuum pump. The necessary process heat is substantially secured by the waste heat of a block heat and power plant of the biogas system connected upstreams. Further chemicals such as acids or alkalis~~yes~~ are not needed in the preferred embodiment of the invention. The system required for the method is easy to handle and can be operated as a batch process, but also continuously.